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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7745  
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STATE FOR USTR/CHRISTOPHER WILSON AND COMMERCE/ITA/TIMOTHY  
MILES

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SUBJECT: IRELAND PUZZLED BY FRENCH COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 160668

The Irish Government is puzzled by France's recently enacted copyright legislation, which appears to place competition concerns centering on interoperability above the protection of intellectual property, according to Michael English, Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment (DETE) Intellectual Property Unit Principal Officer, to whom Pol/Econ Chief delivered reftel demarche on November 30. English cited the Irish view that a focus on competition issues arising from the on-line delivery of music content had muddled France's effort to implement the EU Copyright Directive. He believed that the French legislation was not in line with EU Directive's intent and that the UK, Luxembourg, Cyprus, and Malta were of the same view within the EU. English added that the Irish Government would take special interest in the EU Commission's approach to the French legislation.

FOLEY